IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 9-13, 15, 17, 19 and 20 as follows. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A method of coding a multi-media object using an encoder which is receivable of the multi-media object from an input unit or object generation unit and generates a bit-stream which is subsequently reproducable by a reproduction unit or decoder to obtain the multi-media object, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

coding the object to obtain a bit-stream having multiple coded parts, each coded part including a header and a data part,

generating quality information which indicates a quality of the object when the bit-stream is truncated during decoding thereof in relation to the data parts of the coded parts of the bit-stream, and

adding the quality information to the headers of the coded parts of the bit-stream ~~, which quality information indicates a quality of the object in relation to a given position in (or a given part of) the bit-stream~~ such that the quality information is situated throughout the bit-stream.

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Claim 2 (Original). A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coding step is a scalable coding step to obtain a scalable bit-stream.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended). A method as claimed in claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein the quality information relates to an object reproduction quality.

Claim 4 (Original). A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the quality information is based on a signal to noise ratio value.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended). A method as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein the quality information is in the form of quality tags which are added at given locations in the bit-stream, the quality tags indicating a quality of the object when the bit-stream is truncated just after (or alternatively just before) the given location in the bit-stream.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended). A method as claimed in claims claim 1, wherein the quality information is incorporated in

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existing fields of a given scalable coding standard.

Claim 7 (Original). A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the scalable bit-stream includes several layers and wherein respective layers include respective quality information.

Claim 8 (Original). A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the bit-stream is encrypted and the quality information is unencrypted.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended). A method of controlling at least one bit-stream representing a multi-media object in which bit-stream quality information has been added to headers of coded parts of the bit-stream situated before data parts of the coded parts, the quality information indicating a quality of the object in relation to a given position in (or a given part of) the bit-stream, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving the at least one bit-stream,

extracting the quality information from the headers of the coded parts of the bit-stream,

transcoding or truncating the at least one bit-stream in the case a desired combination of bit-rate and quality of the at

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least one bit-stream differs from a current combination of

bit-rate and quality of the at least one received bit-stream,

    providing the at least one bit-stream at the desired

combination of bit-rate and quality, and

    processing the at least one bit-stream in consideration of

the quality information obtained from the header of one or more

coded parts of the bit-stream near the truncation point.

    Claim 10 (Currently Amended). A method of transmitting at

least one multi-media object using a transmitter which generates

and transmits a bit-stream which is subsequently reproducable by

a reproduction unit or decoder to obtain the multi-media object,

the method comprising the steps of:

    coding the object to obtain [[a]] the bit-stream having

multiple coded parts, each coded part including a header and a

data part,

    generating quality information which indicates a quality of

the object when the bit-stream is truncated during decoding

thereof in relation to the data parts of the coded parts of the

bit-stream,

    adding the quality information to the headers of the coded

parts of the bit-stream , which quality information indicates a

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~~quality of the object in relation to a given position in (or a given part of) the bit-stream~~ such that the quality information is situated throughout the bit-stream, and

transmitting the bit-stream in which the quality information has been added.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended). A method of receiving at least one bit-stream representing a multi-media object in which bit-stream quality information has been added to headers of coded parts of the bit-stream situated before data parts of the coded parts, the quality information indicating a quality of the object in relation to a given position in (or a given part of) the bit-stream, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

extracting the quality information from the headers of the coded parts of the bit-stream,

transcoding or truncating the at least one bit-stream in the case a desired combination of bit-rate and quality of the at least one bit-stream differs from a current combination of bit-rate and quality of the at least one received bit-stream,

providing the at least one bit-stream at the desired combination of bit-rate and quality, ~~and~~

decoding the at least one bit-stream at the desired

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combination of bit-rate and quality, and

processing the at least one bit-stream in consideration of the quality information obtained from the header of one or more coded parts of the bit-stream near the truncation point.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended). A method of receiving at least one bit-stream representing a multi-media object in which bit-stream quality information has been added to headers of coded parts of the bit-stream situated before data parts of the coded parts and enabling the multi-media object to be reproduced by a reproduction unit, the quality information indicating a quality of the object in relation to a given position in (or a given part of) the bit-stream, the method comprising the steps of:

extracting the quality information from the headers of the coded parts of the bit-stream;

decoding the bit-stream to obtain a decoded multi-media object; and

processing the multi-media object in dependence on the extracted quality information obtained from the header of one or more coded parts of the bit-stream whereby the processed multi-media object is reproducable by the reproduction unit.

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Claim 13 (Currently Amended). A device ~~of~~ <u>for</u> coding a multi-media object, the device comprising:

means for coding the object to obtain a bit-stream <u>having multiple coded parts, each coded part including a header and a data part,</u>

<u>means for generating quality information which indicates a quality of the object when the bit-stream is truncated during decoding thereof in relation to the data parts of the coded parts of the bit-stream,</u> and

means for adding <u>the</u> quality information to <u>the headers of the coded parts of</u> the bit-stream ~~, which quality information indicates a quality of the object in relation to a given position in (or a given part of) the bit-stream~~ <u>such that the quality information is situated throughout the bit-stream.</u>

Claim 14 (Original). A transmitter comprising a device as claimed in claim 13.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended). A controller for controlling at least one bit-stream representing a multi-media object in which bit-stream quality information has been added <u>to headers of coded parts of the bit-stream situated before data parts of the</u>

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<u>coded parts</u>, the quality information indicating a quality of the object in relation to a given position in (or a given part of) the bit-stream, the controller comprising:

means for receiving the at least one bit-stream,

means for extracting the quality information from the <u>headers of the coded parts of the</u> bit-stream,

means for truncating the at least one bit-stream in the case a desired combination of bit-rate and quality of the at least one bit-stream differs from a current combination of bit-rate and quality of the at least one received bit-stream,

means for providing the at least one bit-stream at the desired combination of bit-rate and quality<u>, and</u>

<u>means for processing the at least one bit-stream in consideration of the quality information obtained from the header of one or more coded parts of the bit-stream near the truncation point</u>.

Claim 16 (Original). A receiver comprising a controller as claimed in claim 15.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended). A receiver for receiving at least one bit-stream representing a multi-media object in which

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bit-stream quality information has been added <u>to headers of coded
parts of the bit-stream situated before data parts of the coded
parts</u>, the quality information indicating a quality of the object
in relation to a given position in (or a given part of) the
bit-stream, the receiver comprising:

means for extracting the quality information from the
<u>headers of the coded parts of the</u> bit-stream;

means for decoding the bit-stream to obtain a decoded
multi-media object; and

means for processing the multi-media object in dependence on
the extracted quality <u>information obtained from the header of one
or more coded parts of the bit-stream</u>.

Claim 18 (Original). A multiplexer or network node
comprising a controller as claimed in claim 15.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended). A bit-stream representing a
multi-media object in which bit-stream quality information has
been added[[;]] <u>, the bit-stream having multiple coded parts
generated and transmitted by a transmitter and subsequently
processable to enable reproduction of the multi-media object by a
reproduction unit, each coded part having a header and a data</u>

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part, the quality information indicating a quality of the object ~~in relation to a given position in (or a given part of)~~ when the bit-stream is truncated during decoding thereof in relation to the data parts of the coded parts of the bit-stream, the quality information being present in the header of the coded parts of the bit-stream such that the quality information is situated throughout the bit-stream.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended). A storage medium on which a ~~signal~~ bit-stream as claimed in claim 19 has been stored, the storage medium being arranged to receive the bit-stream from the transmitter and being subsequently couplable to the reproduction unit to enable transmission of the bit-stream from the storage medium to the reproduction unit for reproduction thereby.

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